tion to the Workers' Organisations on the same pattern as in the 29th Session.

Rise in prices of drugs

586. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of brands of Thopentone Sodium Halothane, Codine (Glycodine); Furazolidon, Ampicillin, Amoxicillin, Cephalexin, Blemycis, Heparin, Phenoformin, Pheniramine etc. have increased by over 80 per cent after annoucement of DPCO, 1987;

(b) what were their prices under DPCO, 1979 before August, 1987 and what are their prices now packwise and what is the percentage increase in each case;

(c) what are the causes of these price hikes;

(d) what are the names of other products where price increase is more than 100 per cent after the announcemant of DPCO, 1987;

(e) what are the names of products whose break up was examined by the monitoring cell and what was its reaction; and

(f) when did each producer subm the break up and what was the pe centage of price increase intimated in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE I THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The requisite information, to the extent available, is given in the Annexure. [See Appendix CCXIV, Annexure No. 82]

(c) In a situation of rising cost of inputs, some increase in the prices is inevitable if the availability of these items has to be ensured. The increase is relatively more in those cases having high import content due to adjustment of the exchange rate of rupee against major foreign currencies, partial convertibility of rupee, etc. However, as far as medicines under price control are concerned, Government is fixing/revising the prices as per the provisions of the Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1987 (DPCO) after careful scrutiny and in consultation with the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. This mechanism ensures, as is also borne out by the details in the Annexure, that the price increase approved by the Government is reasonable and actually related to the increase in input costs.

(d) to (f) As per the provisions of the DPCO, 1987, manufacturers are free to revise the prices of non-scheduled formulations after informing the Government. The number of decontrolled formulations in various pack sizes and dosage forms runs into thousands. On a sample basis, between January-July, 1992, out of about 271 formulations packs in respect of which details were received, percentage increase over prices prevailing before the commencement of DPCO, 1987 was more than 100 per cent in 30 cases only. Government can legallly intervene in the pricing of formulations outside price control only if the pre-tax return as a percentage of sales turnover exceeds the limits prescribed in Schedule V to the DPCO, 1987.

तुर्कमेनिस्तान के राष्ट्रपति की यात्रा

587. श्री अजीत जोगी :

चौधरी हरि सिंह :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हाल ही में तुर्कमेनिस्तान के राष्ट्रपति ने भारत की यात्रा की थी ;